NEWSLETTER



Serving Electrochemical Science, Technology and Engineering within the catchment of

The Royal Society of Chemistry and The Society of Chemical Industry





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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the Electrochemistry Newsletter in 2022. This year has started to be a busy year with COVID-19 restrictions becoming relaxed allowing in-person events and meetings, reestablishing old collaborations and connections. In this issue we included some technical insights, conference reports and product information.

With in-person conferences starting again (including Electrochem2022!) student travel bursaries have been awarded. Documented here are a number of reports from both national and international conferences. Please encourage students to apply for a contribution to the cost of presenting their work at a national or international conference or organizing a postgraduate conference. The Electrochemistry Group of the RSC and the Energy Technology Group of the SCI provide the funds if the application is accepted. Candidates should apply to <u>Dr. Mark Symes</u>.

We welcome any feedback and suggestions or contributions from readers for future issues.

Carlos lance de Ser

If you wish to notify the editors with your view on the material or the content of any item in this issue, or if you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please write to either Editors (Carlos Ponce-de-León, Faculty of Engineering and the Environment University of Southampton or Charles Cummings, Chemistry (Atmospheres) & Power Sources, QinetiQ) at:

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Missed a copy? You can catch up on all the news *via* our web-space hosted by the Royal Society of Chemistry at the following URL. http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Electrochemistry /news.asp

Industry Insight

Leading the Development of Advanced Electrochemical Materials, an Interview with David Hodgson MD

Charles Cummings^a

a QinetiQ, Haslar Marine Technology Park, Gosport, (email: <u>cycummings@qinetiq.com</u>)

Introduction

As part of this year's RSC Electrochemistry Newsletter, an interview was held with David Hodgson Managing Director from THP-Hydrogen Products [1]. David founded PV3 Technologies in 2011, optimising the company's know-how in platinum group metal coatings and growing it significantly over the past 10+ years.

In 2021 PV3 was acquired by the Technical Fibre Products group and is



now known as TFP Hydrogen Products [2]. With over 35 years' experience in the electrochemistry industry, David has been instrumental in his field, from working in R&D in multi-national corporates to CTO and CEO roles for Plurion, Amalyst and others. Since 2009, David has managed a wide and varied portfolio career, undertaking a number of advisory roles, including working together with the Department for International Trade in helping companies understand the UK energy sector, and in the area of innovation to commercialisation in a programme named 'idea2invoice'.

David Hodgson MD of TFP Hydrogen Products interview [1]

CC: Hi David thank you again for accepting the interview. I was wondering if you could give a brief overview of your professional experience?

DH: Many thanks Charles, I'll do a quick run through but it's probably not quite what you may expect! These days you would describe what I did as a modern apprenticeship. I was fortunate to be sponsored by ICI at the time and I had 3 separate positions working in different research groups which was a great experience. I found an area of the company that interested me which was electro-catalysis and chlorine evolution. Through day release I competed a degree, masters and PhD whilst working. The challenge around the technology landscape with new demands such as higher performance was really great to be a part of. I was fortunate that the company gave me resources to develop new materials and then scale up through pilot plant and commercial trials at production scale. During this time we also had some niche and spill over benefits to develop new applications for new products including: fuel cells and photo-electrochemistry. During this phase I came across the world of start-ups and it was something I would like to be a part of.

I eventually joined a Cambridge start-up as CTO focused on molten salt electrochemistry. After this I moved to Intellectual Capitol Plurion (California based) as CTO. I was responsible for a number of individuals in different research areas. Unfortunately, the 2008 financial crisis put an end to Plurion and I moved into consultation. However, three ex-colleagues and myself wanted to transfer to product based technologies and formed PV3 technologies. We initially looked at a number of different aspects of electro-catalysts including: flow battery electrolytes, water treatment electrodes and corrosion resistance. We increase the company in terms of capability and capacity and in January 2021 we were acquired by TFP-Hydrogen group.

CC: It sounds a very interesting experience working across different fields. Can you give an insight into some defining experiences?

DH: The first would be the exposure to the electro-catalytic industry when I first started. The interaction/work with start-ups in the 2000s and exposure to that world was very interesting. After this consulting was a good experience but I always thought to myself to have a plan B and move into product development and manufacture. Thankfully alot of different aspects of my career have fallen into place overtime which I am grateful for.

CC: That's great, what is your company currently working on?

DH: What most industry electro-catalysis groups are doing, working in green hydrogen space. Basically this concerns research and development into low over potential, high durability, scalable materials for hydrogen production to reduce the cost of green hydrogen. This is critical for the technology to perform at significant scale. There are very ambitious targets from both companies and governments with considerable investment, something of which we wish to be a part of.

CC: Are there any innovation projects you can speak about?

DH: We have a varied innovation portfolio at THP-Hydrogen. In fact we have just finished a large innovation project for a Cornwall funded programme. We were developing a new coating for a porous transport layer that could significantly influence the cost dynamics of the application process. Part of TPH-Hydrogen's mission is to create low cost green hydrogen which includes material and component cost reduction. We are having some real successes at the small scale and commercialising technologies and innovations is currently underway. Scale up is not trivial and there is innovation to go to industrial scale. The company has just won an innovation award and its due to a medical device we have been working on. We won the award due to having technical innovation through the coating and the product but we also had some manufacturing and commercial innovation through new business models we have not used before.

CC: Congratulations with the award. In terms of funding what experience can you share with attaining funding for a company such as TFP-Hydrogen?

DH: It's been a mix. I have experience raising funds from a number of sources including venture capitalism, equality, and innovation funding through international (EU), national (InnovateUK) and regional funds. Non diluted funding is very attractive but it has to align with the vision and goals of the company. Funding has given us the opportunity to collaborate with partners internationally which has been great.

CC: As MD of TFP-Hydrogen can you give an insight into your daily work routine?

DH: It can be varied and it encompasses a few different aspects. For example, today I started by speaking to the technical team about laboratory practice. After this I have just had a meeting with our chairman elect and we discussed how we are moving forward in advanced materials and clean energy. I have meetings with direct customers to understand their ambitions for projects. I have internal project reviews with the technical teams to understand how things are coming along. Outside of technical and technical management I have some mundane financing reviews but also some exciting HR activities such as drafting job descriptions for new roles.

CC: Personnel question advice for an undergraduate or postgraduate or PhD thinking about a move to industry.

DH: Ha, not sure if I am the best person to give advice as things have kind of evolved over the course of my career. I have been fortunate to work with great people. Maybe my advice to a scientist wanting to join industry would be find "a home" which would fit your style and ambitions. Make sure you undertake something which has value and worth because you spend a significant portion of your life at work and its important you enjoy it. Finally I would say, Don't be afraid to ask questions, people can always say no.



CC: Great, finally I was wondering if I could ask if THF-Hydrogen was influenced by COVID-19 pandemic at all?

DH: We worked right throughout the pandemic as we put controls into workplace safety. We have implemented working from home and on-site. However, if you want to be innovative and drive things forward you have to be around people and come to work. We have some of our customers close down during COVID-19 but this worked to our advantage as it allowed us to progress projects.

We actually made hand sanitiser to a number of local groups including food banks, care homes, charities, schools and post offices. In the end we sold half and gave the other half away.

The interview was conducted between Charles Cummings [3] and David Hodgson on the 10th December 2021. The RSC Newsletter editors would like to thank David and his team for taking the time to review and approve the article.



References

[1] Virtual interview between C. Cummings and D. Hodgson on the 10th Dec 2021

- [2] TFP-Hydrogen Products, website: <u>https://www.tfphydrogen.com/</u>
- [3] QinetiQ Power Sources, website: <u>www.qinetiq.com/power</u>

Electrochem2021 Electrochem2021

6th September 2021 13:30 – 7th September 2021 17:00, Online

Editor's note ...

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic 2021 *Electrochem2021* was held on an online platform and covered talks over 2020 and 2021. The focus of the conference was to present awardees (virtually) with Barker, Sheelagh Campbell, Faraday, Fleischmann and Parsons awards and invite winners to showcase their research. In addition, regional student awardees were invited to speak.

Despite the conference being held online the electrochemistry community showed support with 130 - 150 live attendees throughout most of the event and everything seemed to go very smoothly. During questions and answers sessions there was good interaction between participants and awardees with exchange of technical information and ideas. Despite a small number of talks for an *Electrochem* (12 in total) the content crossed all boundaries within electrochemistry and it was thoroughly enjoyed and well received. Posters presented (via Twitter) were to a high standard of which a number of poster winners were selected. The editors would like to thank the *Electrochem2021* organization committee of Mark Symes, Michelle Browne, Petra Cameron & Mark Platt.

Many congratulations for the awardees:

- 1. Barker Medal 2020: Julie Macpherson, University of Warwick
- 2. Sheelagh Campbell Award 2020: Virgil Andrei, University of Cambridge
- 3. Faraday Medal2020: Shirley Meng, University of California San Diego
- 4. **Fleischmann Lecture**: Hubert Girault, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
- 5. Parsons Medal 2021: Max García-Melchor, Trinity College Dublin
- 6. Sheelagh Campbell Award 2021: Alfie Wills, University of Strathclyde
- 7. Faraday Medal 2021: Petter Strasser, Technical University Berlin

Many congratulations for the student regional awardees:

- 1. Rajesh Jethwa University of Cambridge
- 2. Franziska Boessl University of Edinburgh
- 3. Laurence Savignac Lancaster University
- 4. Eric Mates Torres Trinity College Dublin
- 5. Matt Leech University of Greenwich

Many congratulations for Twitter post prize awardees:

- 1. Max Bauming Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin
- 2. Holly Fruehwald Ontario Tech University
- 3. Colm Mckeever Maynooth University
- 4. Sasho Stojkovik Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin
- 5. Gita Sing University College Dublin
- 6. Amy Smart University of the West of England

Ionic Liquids Discussion Group

Inaugural joint seminar between RSC Interest Groups: electrochemistry meets molten salts and ionic liquids!

Edmund Dickinson^a

aNational Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Surrey

(email: edmund.dickinson@npl.co.uk, 27 January 2022)

On 22 November 2021, some 60 attendees from around the world tuned in online for the inaugural joint seminar coordinated between the RSC Electrochemistry Group and the RSC Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids Discussion Group. Edmund Dickinson (National Physical Laboratory) and George Chen (University of Nottingham) convened the meeting on behalf of the respective Interest Groups. As molten salts and ionic liquids are used as electrolytes in diverse applications of industrial and scientific relevance, the intersection of the topics offers significant interest to both communities.

Four academic speakers gave half-hour talks and took questions at the event. First, Debbie Silvester-Dean (Curtin University, Perth, Australia) spoke about her research on "Ionic liquids as electrochemical sensor materials", considering especially the selection of the optimal room-temperature ionic liquid (RTIL) for particular target gas analytes. Andy Abbott (University of Leicester) introduced a set of novel investigations into the properties of "Ambient temperature calcium chloride-based eutectics for metal electrodeposition", demonstrating electroplating capability for a set of first-row transition metals and some advantageous properties over more traditional deep eutectic solvents, such as those based on quaternary ammonium salts.

In the second half of the seminar, Clint Sharrad (University of Manchester) provided insight into the impact of molten salt electrochemistry in a specific industrial sector by introducing "Electrochemical treatment of nuclear graphite

using molten salts" – the purpose being to use electrochemistry to concentrate specific radioactive elements so that a larger proportion of radioactive waste can be downgraded. Lastly, Darren Walsh (University of Nottingham) spoke on the prospects for "Electrochemical synthesis in flowing ionic liquids"; his research has explored the particular impact of the ionic liquid electrolyte on the role of TEMPO as a mediator in alcohol oxidation.

The organisers hope that this seminar was the first of many, and that the fruitful collaboration between the two Interest Groups can continue. While it is hoped that running future seminars in-person could offer a more social experience, the opportunity to invite speakers from across the globe was a definite benefit of the online format.

Great Western Electrochemistry

Regional Postgraduate Symposium Great Western Electrochemistry 2022, University of Bath

<u>Frank Marken</u>a

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On Monday 13th June 2022, the "in-person" one-day postgraduate "GWEM 2022" symposium was held at the University of Bath. At this meeting some invited guests presented talks together with postgraduate presenters from Bristol, Oxford, Bath, Reading, Exeter, Swansea, and from Cardiff. Industry exhibitors (Alvatek, Integrated Graphene, Metrohm) contributed with displays and prizes. There were four sessions with in total 20 talks, all chaired and discussed by postgraduate students. Major themes of the day were carbon dioxide reduction, ocean plastics, photo-electrochemistry, electrocatalysis, spectroelectrochemistry, and artificial intelligence.

The day started with a talk by Philippa Kearney (Bath) on ocean plastics and bisphenol A removal strategies. Emily Owen (Bath) then discussed new impedance spectroscopy approaches for monitoring skin damage and skin diagnostics. Kaya Davies-Brenchley (Bath) continued with a talk on the topic of photoelectrochemical water splitting with perovskites.



The first session then concluded with Sabrina Waters (Bristol-Bath) discussing Pt mono-layer deposition into lipid-templated gold nanostructures.

The second session started with Dr Minjun Yang (Oxford) explaining how electrochemical tools combined with microscopy allow biogenic calcite formation in the ocean to be monitored quantitatively. Autonomous measurement tools will provide much better diagnostics and speciation data for CO2 uptake in the sediment to be estimated and the new approach is now gathering data mid-Atlantic (see: Mayflower Autonomous Ship). Diyar Othman (Cardiff) then described his work on new types of colloidal quantum dots. Manal Alruwaili (Exeter) reported TiVO4 materials for solar driven fuels processes. Dr Craig Armstrong (Swansea) introduced new ideas for gas diffusion reactors combined with chlorine production for industrial scale de-carbonisation. The urgency of solving carbon dioxide recycling challenges with new types of processes and the need for new technologies were highlighted.

After some lunch and poster discussions, the third session started with Haotian Chen (Oxford) presenting his work on neural networks in predicting concentration profiles in 2D and 3D electrode systems. Physics informed neural networks (PINN) were shown to provide very powerful approximation tools that overcome the need for detailed finite element models. The neural network successfully predicts concentration profiles and processes at electrodes. Next, Aswathi Koorikat (Bristol) presented her work on pulse-deposited copper films. Ecem Bozdogan (Bristol) presented work on Cu2O deposited into silicon nanowire structures for photoactive films. Sami Alharbi (Bristol) focused on water splitting and the oxygen evolution reaction at nickel-doped MnO2 nanostructures. Srijita Nandy (Exeter) discussed new types of "high entropy" oxide materials based on rare earths for photocatalytic water splitting.

In the final session, Mohammed Alkhalifah (Bristol) reported work on perovskites for heterogeneous water splitting catalysis and Daniel Skelson (Reading) introduced IR-spectroelectrochemistry in room temperature ionic liquids for homogeneous CO₂ reduction catalysis. Mansour Alhabradi (Exeter) discussed thin sputter coated hematite materials and Dr Maisa Beluomini (Bath) explained how she developed new screen-printed electrodes for valuable components in agricultural waste streams. The day concluded with Wanli Liu (Bath) discussing lipidic bio-sensor structures and Simon Wikeley (Bath) explaining a new approach to glucose sensing.

Prizes were presented to Daniel Skelson (Reading), Haotian Chen (Oxford), and Sabrina Waters (Bristol-Bath) for excellent talks. Two poster prizes were awarded to Ayesha Mubshrah (Bristol) and to Diyar Othman (Cardiff). Daniel Skelson has been selected for free access to the 2022 RSC Electrochem conference in Edinburgh. The day was inspiring and discussions continued.

BES symposium XXVII

Studentconferencereport:XXVIIInternationalsymposiumonBioelectrochemistry and Bioenergetics (BES)

<u>Tanushree Mandal</u>a

^aNational University of Ireland, Galway

The BES conference is an international conference organized by the Bioelectrochemical Society (BES) which happens every two years. The six main topics of this year's conference were: i) Bio(inspired) sensors & diagnostics; ii) Microbial electrochemical technologies and electron transport system; iii) Bio-electrosynthesis; iv) Electroporation & biomembrane electrochemistry; v) Nano technologies & architectures for bio-electrochemistry; and vi) Bio(photo)electrochemistry & bio-energetics.

I work on diagnostic assays, which is why the 'Bio(inspired) sensors & diagnostics' session was very interesting to me. There were many talks on how different kinds of assays can be designed to make the detection methods more precise, reliable, and easy to use. The talks in this session focused on detection of many bio-analytes like glucose, cholesterol, testosterone, cancer biomarkers, bacteria etc. One particularly interesting talk was by Johan Bobacka on a magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) extraction technique where a small electric current is combined with a magnetic field to accelerate fluid transport through skin. This technique was being used to suction glucose off the skin and quantify the glucose concentration to use the technique for a glucose sensor. This was different for many reasons as most assays usually use enzymes or DNA aptamers to do this kind of diagnosis. Elena Ferapontova gave a very detailed talk on using DNA aptamers, it was shown that a biomarker for breast cancer can be detected in femtomolar region which is

very impressive. Fabiana Arduini had a different approach to the assay as she used paper-based sensors for diagnosis. This kind of technique makes point-of-care (POC) devices much feasible to use. Paper-based electrochemical devices were shown to detect analytes in aerosol phase and on surface without any additional instrument. The most common sensor system that was discussed during the conference was the glucose sensor. There were a few talks on how to make the glucose sensor better by using microneedle devices for transdermal sensing and by using polymeric films for stable signals. Another interesting part of this session was the assays for detection of bacteria in sample. Enterobactin (Ent), a siderophore produced by E. coli, and pyocyanin (PyoC), a metabolite of P. aeruginosa, were shown to be used as target markers for detection of these common bacteria in water.

BES2022 was my first in-person talk after the pandemic lockdown. It was very nice to attend the oral presentations and the poster sessions in-person. I presented a talk on 'Peroxidase-based sensors using mediated electrochemistry and in-situ area normalization'. discussed T various electrochemical techniques which can be used to normalize irregular electrode surface area in-situ. After that, I discussed peroxidase catalysis using osmium polypyridyl redox complexes. In the end, I talked about how these two methods can be used together to design peroxidase-based immunoassays prostate cancer with improved peroxide detection. Right is a picture of me discussing my results in the conference.



ECS Meeting XXVII

Student conference report: Summary of 241st Electrochemistry Society (ECS) Meeting XXVII

<u>Mateen Mirza</u>a

^aDepartment of Chemical Engineering, University College London

The 241st Electrochemical Society Meeting was held between 29th May – 2nd June 2022 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, Canada. This conference brought together the most active researchers in academia, industry and government with a wide range of electrochemical research areas for all who are interested in this field. There was a particular focus on batteries, solid state technology as well as using electrochemistry for industrial applications. It served as an excellent opportunity to collaborate and network with people in-person following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The most interesting and relevant section was on battery recycling and reuse. The symposium addressed and reported the most pressing concerns surrounding the future use and recovery of critical materials, for e.g. cobalt, manganese and aluminium. Given the depletion of fossil fuels, research groups in the last two to three decades have begun to turn their attention to recycling methods and even optimising current Li-ion batteries and opting for perhaps the revolutionary Na-ion battery as stated by Prof. Jeff Dahn (plenary speaker for the ECS Meeting). It is clear that despite our best efforts to optimise battery cathode materials, the rapid electrification of vehicles recycling lithium-ion batteries (LiBs) will leverage the cost and supply of battery materials and efforts should focus on these areas.

Most of the talks focused on the use of hydrometallurgical (aqueous-based process) and pyrometallurgical processes for the recovery of such materials. I presented my research which comprised of a novel approach to recover battery materials by electrochemical means (fluidised cathode process). The fluidised cathode process is where particulate solids come into close and due to the agitation of a liquid/gas

lead to the formation of a pseudo-like mixture which enhances and improves the kinetics of a process. In our system, the metal oxide particles are suspended within a molten salt, LiCl-KCl, and are agitated by inert argon gas. The fluidised cathode system is widely used in copper deposition, alkaline peroxide synthesis as well as wastewater treatment processes. In this work, two different types of battery materials were tested both spent and commercial phase pure LiCoO₂ in which we achieved Faradaic current efficiencies exceeding 70%. Further details on this work found our recent publication in Electrochimica can be in Acta. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2021.138846. It was interesting to compare this work to methods which do not use electrochemical means and have achieved industrial maturity by means of producing large yields of critical materials. This talk was followed up with many interesting questions and conversations with scientists from both academia and industry which helped bring new ideas and perspective to my future research.



Ultimately, attending an international conference has provided me with an understanding of where my research lies with respect to current efforts, and facilitated the formation of new collaborations and networking opportunities.

ECS Meeting XXVII

Student conference report: Summary of 241st Electrochemistry Society (ECS) Meeting XXVII

<u>Rajesh Bharat Jethwa</u>ª

^aDepartment of Chemistry, University of Cambridge

With the resurgence of in-person conferences and meetings in the wake of the pandemic, I am grateful that I was able to give an oral presentation in Vancouver at the 241st Electrochemical Society Meeting. Over the course of the five-day conference, several talks and posters were presented spanning several symposia and topics, involving a range of diagnostic and functional applications of electrochemistry. In the Redox Flow Battery Symposium, several topics came to the fore: the effect of electrode functionalisation and how that impacts the interaction with the electrolyte, the need to understand the processes that occur inside the battery, and the need for new electrolyte motifs and membranes. The latter two are especially important to facilitate flow batteries that have decadal service lives. This means that they need to be capable of undergoing several thousands of cycles without suffering from any capacity fade.

Having presented a talk combining synthetic exploration with in-situ characterisation, the concept of using machine learning and computational techniques to inform synthetic design is one that is particularly intriguing to me. Two speakers presented updates on this topic during the conference. The first, by Professor Noack (FICT), summarised the progress that has been made within the Horizon 2020 SONAR Project. The project uses mathematical models and numerical simulation for high volume pre-selection of systems. By modelling several properties at a variety of length-scales, the project ultimately aims to optimise flow battery performance. For example, providing estimates for redox potential, solubility, electron transfer kinetics, as well as full cell voltage and power density, all from a simple SMILES chemical input. If predictions that correlate well

with experimental values can be made cheaply and easily, such a system would allow synthetic chemists to focus on making the more promising electrolytes, rather than having to generate a library of compounds to identify the key structureproperty relationships themselves. Professor Wang (PNNL) also indicated that his group is working towards this goal, highlighting the need in the field for accelerated screening of candidate molecules.

In addition to the wealth of topics provided throughout the conference, the opportunity to network face-to-face with well-known professors in the field is something that has been largely absent from the digital meetings that took place over the last few years. Through this conference, I am grateful that I was able to exchange a few words with fellow early-career researchers during the Student Mixer evening, as well as having the opportunity to mingle with academics during the Members and Opening Receptions. Through these interactions, I hope to either facilitate future collaborations with relevant parties or investigate future career options as I approach the end of the current chapter in my academic career.



Ultimately, through the talks and interactions held throughout the conference, I am aware of the increased need for systematic and informed synthetic design in

energy storage applications. Whether it be degradation resistant salts for lithiumor sodium-ion batteries, or energy dense redox-active species for flow batteries, or indeed redox-species that are migration resistant for battery-capacitor hybrids or membrane-free batteries, there is a need to survey, synthetise and screen new molecules. This together with the use of in-situ characterisation – which is rapidly growing in capability - and battery diagnosis will hopefully pave the way towards energy dense, cheap energy storage systems and a decreased reliance on fossil fuels for our future energy needs.

ECS Meeting XXVII

Student conference report: Summary of 241st Electrochemistry Society (ECS) Meeting XXVII

<u>Emma Latchema</u>

^aDepartment of Chemistry, University of Cambridge

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, this is the first year that I have been able to attend a conference in-person. At the ECS conference, I particularly enjoyed presenting some of my research into crossover of quinone species in aqueous organic redox flow batteries (AORFBs). Although I have appreciated the accessibility of online conferences, the discussions I have had following in-person research talks have been much more in-depth and engaged. I found the discussions in more relaxed settings, such as over lunch and student mixers were the most useful. For example, after my talk multiple people approached to me to ask questions about my work. As my talk session ended at lunchtime, I then went to lunch with some of these people, where I was able to learn more about their work too.

There was a redox flow battery (RFB) symposium at this conference, meaning that there were many researchers who had research interests closely aligned to my own. For example, the Aziz Group at Harvard is a leading group in the field of AORFBs and I have been using one of their systems as a model system to develop my methodology for measuring crossover. The presentations from the Aziz group were all really interesting. In particular, I enjoyed T. Y. George's presentation on 'Size and Charge Effects on Organic Flow Battery Crossover Evaluated By Quinone Permeabilities through Nafion'. T. Y. George *et al.* prepared a series of quinone molecules with varied size (e.g. hydroquinone, anthraquinone) and charge (by addition of -1 charged sulfonate groups). The permeabilities of these molecules through Nafion (a cation-exchange membrane), was then measured, along with the Stokes radii of each molecule. Through this systematic study, they deduced that, for this series of molecules, the charge-effects were more impactful at reducing crossover than size effects. They found over an order of magnitude permeability reduction per sulfonate. Conversely, when comparing two analogous molecules with the same number of sulfonate groups, the one with half the Stokes radius had a permeability less than an order of magnitude higher. These studies should help inform the design of low-crossover quinone molecules moving forward.

In another talk, R. R. Jacquemond, from the Eindhoven University of Technology, presented his work on 'Neutron Radiography As a Powerful Method to Visualize Reactive Flows in Redox Flow Batteries'. In this work, by leveraging the high attenuation of organic isotopic labelled materials, they were able use subtractive neutron imaging to quantify the concentrations of active species and supporting electrolytes. As they had an *operando* setup, they were able to investigate how these concentration profiles depended on the operating conditions of the battery. Furthermore, *in-plane* imaging configuration used meant that the changes in concentrations on either side of the membrane could be measured simultaneously. Therefore, this allowed them to investigate the influence of electrode microstructure, membrane type and flow field design on spatial and temporal gradients in reactant concentrations. This is particularly exciting to me, as it is another method through which the influence of charging protocol on crossover could be investigated.



This is just a couple of examples of the many exciting research projects that I was introduced to at the ECS conference. I am very grateful being able to talk to many of the presenting authors, and to have been given the opportunity to present work myself. These experiences have improved my confidence in scientific communication and have left me feeling very motivated to push my project forward on my return to Cambridge.

Future conferences:



International Society of Electrochemistry

Several events have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Please check carefully in the events website. Below is the list of ISE conferences listed online:

2022

27 - 30 November, Santiago, Chile (33rd ISE Topical Meeting) Challenges in Molecular Electrochemistry and Surface Reactivity (<u>more information</u>)

2023

20 - 22 March, Mar del Plata, Argentina (34th ISE Topical Meeting) Electrochemistry: reaching out society

7 - 10 May, Gold Coast, Australia (35th ISE Topical Meeting) Electrochemistry for energy, environment and health: key challenges and enabling solutions

3 - 8 September, Lyon, France (74th Annual Meeting)

Bridging Scientific Disciplines to Address the World's Challenges

2024

26 - 29 May, Sibenik, Croatia (36th ISE Topical Meeting)

9 - 12 June, Baveno, Italy (37th ISE Topical Meeting)

18 - 23 August, Montréal, Canada (75th Annual Meeting)

8 - 11 September Manchester, UK (38th ISE Topical Meeting)

2025 Mainz, Germany (76th Annual Meeting)



Sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for supporting this conference:





Electrochemical Technology

The Electrochemical Technology Technical Interest Group is involved in all aspects of the application of electrochemical science and engineering. The Group's aim is to promote research and development of electrochemistry which leads to the production of appropriate technologies and industrial and consumer products. The Group provides an interface between academia and industry and is a forum for promoting research



and collaboration between a range of scientific and engineering disciplines.

Industrial sectors

Electrochemical activities cut across all industrial sectors, including chemical, pharmaceutical, electrical, electronic and micro-electronic, information technology, mining and metallurgical, biotechnology, transportation, medical, water and wastewater. As such, the Group's interests include applications of electrochemistry in:

- sensors and monitors
- energy conversion and storage
- synthesis of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biochemicals, polymers and electronic materials
- materials protection, processing and fabrication
- environmental protection and control

Join here

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RSC Electrochemistry Group



RSC Electrochemistry Group

This RSC Group is part of the Faraday Division, involved in all aspects of electrochemical processes (fuel cells, energy sources, analytical devices and sensors, electrochemical planting and synthesis, fundamental research etc).

Activities:

- The Group organises the annual 'Electrochem' meetings (Faraday Medal) to reward outstanding international scientists. For up-to-date information, go to the RSC's web pages for the Electrochemistry Group.
- The Electrochemistry newsletter: available quarterly, in pdf, from our RSC web pages, it highlights events' reports and general sector's news and insights.
- Student bursaries: to support/encourage graduate students giving lectures on their PhD work at national and/or international conferences.
- Outreach: activities involving the public and schools to raise awareness of the fundamental importance of electrochemical processes today.



www.rsc.org/electrochemistry

Join <u>here</u>

The Electroanalytical Sensing Systems Group

The Electroanalytical Sensing Systems Group is one of the RSC's many Interest Groups. The Interest Groups are member driven groups which exist to benefit RSC members, and the wider chemical science community, in line with the RSC's strategy and charter.

Join <u>here</u>





ALVATEK Electrochemistry Product News

Em¹Stat³ blue



- 8 hours of batterylife
- USB or Bluetooth communication
- potential range of ±4V
- current ranges from 1 nA to 100 mA
- ideal for sensor applications

Optional:

- 8 or 16 channel multiplexer
- stirrer control
- Pt1000 temperature sensor
- differential electrometer amplifier









Alvatek Ltd, Unit 48 Basepoint Business Centre, Premier Way, Abbey Park Industrial Estate, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 9AQ

Telephone: 0800 566 8228 Fax: 0870 751 5064

Email: info@alvatek.co.uk www.alvatek.co.uk

Electrochemistry Solutions - What's New?

Elements Ultra low noise current amplifiers for

nanopore and electrophysiology research.

Alvatek is now the official UK distributor for Elements Srl products. Elements specialises in pico- and nano-scale electrochemistry measurements ranging from live cells to bio- and solid state nanopore sensing.





PalmSens Sensit BT- Handheld, wireless dual

channel potentiostat with EIS to 200kHz

- Dual channel / Bipotentiostat
- EIS to 200kHz
- Current Ranges 100nA 5mA (3mA max)
- USB / Battery Power
- £1.5K ex VAT

Ivium pocketStat2- handheld potentiostat with

EIS to 1MHz

- Low noise design with 100pA current range (optionally 10pA)
- EIS to 100kHz and current to 30mA
- Optional battery and BlueTooth.
- <£3.5K ex VAT

OctoStat30-8 independent potentiostats each with EIS.

For applications requiring simultaneous EIS measurements on multiple cells. (also for multichannel battery cycling with lvium's new CycliScan software)

- 30mA per channel
- EIS to 100kHz (NEW option to 1MHz)
- Are £1.5K per channel ex VAT





ALSO...

We are pleased to offer MICRUX microfluidic cells, sensors and platforms to complement our BASi range.

We are now the official UK distributor for EL-Cell battery fixtures and cells (more in our Energy News page in this newsletter.

For more information: www.alvatek.co.uk

Email: info@Alvatek.co.uk Call us on: 0800 566 8228

Electrochemistry, Fuel Cell & Battery Research & Test Solutions



Alvatek Ltd, Unit 48 Basepoint Business Centre, Premier Way, Abbey Park Industrial Estate, Bomsey, Hampshire, SOS1 9AQ Telephone: 0800 566 8228 Fax: 0870 751 5064 Email: info@alvatek.co.uk www.alvatek.co.uk

Energy Research Solutions - What's New?

EL-Cell – battery test cells & fixtures

Alvatek is now the official UK exclusive distributor for El-Cell GmbH. El-Cell's unique combination of Electrochemistry and mechanical engineering expertise is evident in its innovative and high quality range of cells, systems and dilatometers for battery research.

- Test Cells
- Temperature chambers
- Precision Tools: cutters and punches
- Dilatometers



Ivium CycliScan – cycler software

Included IviumSoft, Ivium's electrochemical software, CycliScan provides a look and feel familiar to battery researchers. Also adds functionality (such as **drive cycle simulation**) and safety features essential for battery research.



IVICycle – 32 channel cycler with EIS

This 32 channel multi-potentiostat / battery cycler includes independent EIS per channel and both Cycler and Electrochemistry capabilities.

- 30mA to 5A per channel (16A with booster).
- Per-channel costs start around £1K.

NanoCycler – 8-channel cycler

- 10mA per channel OR
- 100mA max per channel
- Including software < £4,000 total



IviCycler

Non-destructive Electrolyte

Measurements

Novonix's Differential Thermal Analysis (DTA) system enables the reliable measurement of the evolution of liquid electrolyte in lithium-ion cells and other electrochemical cells.



Electrolyser Test Systems

Scribner's new 600ETS and E857 systems flexibly address electrolyser researcher requirements across a wide range of materials, liquids and gases.



For more information: www.alvatek.co.uk

Email: info@Alvatek.co.uk Call us on: 0800 566 8228

Electrochemistry, Fuel Cell & Battery Research & Test Solutions



Electrochemistry? There's an app for that



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New Product Information Palm Sens **Compact Electrochemical Interfaces** Palm Sens³ Em Stat 3 and 3+ Potentiostat / Galvanostat / Impedance Potentiostat Analyser Em¹Stat³MUX16 Em Stat³MUX8 EmStat3 with integrated EmStat3 with integrated 8 channel multiplexer (MUX8) 16 channel multiplexer (MUX16) MultiEm Stat 3 and 3+ Multi Em Stat³ 4 channel multipotentiostat 4, 8 or 12 channel multipotentiostat with EmStat3 modules with EmStat3 or EmStat3+ modules Em¹Stat³4we Distributed in the UK by EK

Polypotentiostat for use with up to 4 working electrodes.

Tel: 01666 500991 Email: info@alvatek.co.uk www.alvatek.co.uk

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Tel: 01666 500991 Electrochemistry, Fuel Cell & Battery Research & Test Solutions

April 2013: ALVATEK and BASi sign UK distribution contract

A Selection from the BASi range of electrochemistry accessories. These can be found at <u>www.basinc.com/products/ec.html</u>

Electrochemical Cell Packages

- C-3 Cell Stand for Voltammetry
- Controlled Growth Mercury Electrode (CGME) for Polarography
- RDE-2 Rotating Disk Electrode
- Bulk Electrolysis Cell
- Thin-Layer Cross-Flow Cell
- Spectroelectrochemical Cell
- Glucose Sensor Interface

Electrodes

- Working Electrodes for Voltammetry
- Working Electrodes for Bulk Electrolysis
- Microelectrodes
- Reference Electrodes
- Auxiliary Electrodes
- Wired Enzyme Electrode
- Polishing Kit and Supplies

Cells

- Cell Vials
- Cell Tops
- Gas Sparging & Magnetic Stirring
- VC-2 Voltammetry Cell
- Low Volume Cell

For more information on any of the above products please contact Steve Fryatt at Alvatek



Tel: 01666 500991 Email: info@alvatek.co.uk

www.alvatek.co.uk





Science Instruments

EC-Lab Ltd _www.ec-lab.co.uk Tel: 01753 8: Email sales@

MTZ-35 The new benchmark of impedance analyzers

Exploring new frontiers of impedance testing with a wide frequency range impedance analyzer and a full range of ancillary equipment.

MEASUREMENT RANGES

- Frequency range 10 µHz to 35 MHz
- Inductance 10 nH to 10 kH
- Capacitance

307

MTZ-35

- 1 pF to 1000 µF
- Resistance 1 mΩ to 100 MΩ

38





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scan instruments



- Configurable for 8 to 14 channels
- Single USB connection controls all channels
- Ultra low noise current performance
- UiEChem[™] software supplied with system
- Analogue triggering

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Uuniscan instruments

BioLogic company

- 5-WE multiplexing on each channel
- Interfaces to commercial electrochemical sensors
- User programmable techniques via macro programming
- ActiveX software for LabView™ applications

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Metrohm Autolab



Metrohm Autolab has been a member of the Metrohm Group since 1999. Metrohm Autolab customers can look expect excellent sales and service support from a dedicated team of Electrochemists based at Metrohm's prestigious laboratories at Daresbury near Runcorn.

Metrohm Autolab produces four different potentiostat/galvanostat lines for a wide range of electrochemical applications, as well as modular extensions, software and accessories.



Autolab U.K. Email: autolab@metrohm.co.uk



- Differential Normal Pulse Voltammetry NDP
- ACV AC Voltammetry

Amperometry

- AD Amperometric Detection
- Fast Amperometry (t_{int} < 0.1 s) Pulsed Amperometric Detection FA
- PAD
- ZRA Zero Resistance Amperometry

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PARSTATTM MC multichannel potentiostat/galvanostat

Protect Your Experiment From the Unexpected



Designed to protect your experiment from the unexpected, the PARSTATTM MC is the most modular and robust multi-channel electrochemical testing platform on the market. It builds on our industry-leading 50+, years of experience in potenticstat development and software user-interface design.



The ultimate in modular design

Widest dynamic current range of 2 Amps to 4 nA (120 fA resolution) as standard. No need for expensive hardware options.



- Hot-swappable channels allow potentiostats to be added or removed without interruption of experiments on other channels
- Fast data acquisition at 500 kS/sec allows for a wide range of high speed applications



- Features the most popular electrochemical acquisition and analysis software solution, VersaStudio
 - Floating ground allows testing of multiple samples in the same cell



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Productor the new gold standard for electrochemical instrumentation To compose an electrochemical test system that's totally in tune with your research requirements, contact Solarton today.

New Product Information

New Solartron EnergyLab XM for Energy Research

The Solartron EnergyLab XM is an electrochemical impedance workstation designed specifically for energy storage research:

- Batteries
- Supercapacitors
- Fuel cells

New Application-Focussed Product Line

The EnergyLab XM is the first of a new application-specific range of potentiostats from Solartron Analytical (Ametek), with small footprints and affordable pricing. There will be four systems in the range, which will be launched over the coming months.

Follow Blue Scientific on Linked In to receive details of the new instruments as they are announced.

EnergyLab XM

The first product in the series to launch is EnergyLab XM, for impedance testing of a variety of energy storage devices, including the testing of batteries, supercapacitors and fuel cells. The system includes all components required for this area of research, eliminating the need for costly hardware add-ons. The system includes:

- A reference grade potentiostat
- Frequency response analyser (FRA)
- 2A booster

The unit may be operated in boosted or unboosted mode (with automatic switching), providing optimum test conditions and accuracy for a wide range of devices.

EnergyLab XM's extreme sensitivity is ideal for complete characterisation of prototype low current or low impedance new generation cells. If high current is needed, external boosters can be connected and automatically controlled, allowing fully integrated high current tests at up to 100A.

For more information and quotes, please contact Blue Scientific, exclusive distributor for Solartron Analytical in the UK and Ireland, on 01223 422 269 or <u>info@blue-scientific.com</u>





www.blue-scientific.com







Thin-film technologies enable the manufacture of standard and customized (micro)electrodes with a low-cost, high precision and resolution. Micrux can adapt the electrochemical system to the requirements of the customers applications.

Thin-film accessories: flow cell and universal connector have been developed to use in combination with these electrodes.



» PROFICIENCY IN MICROFLUIDICS

Micrux has experience in developing capillary Electrophoresis microchips with electrochemical detection and the small and totally portable instrumentation to use them: Holder, iHV5tat, miniPump, etc.



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